

Orange County Produce LLC

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS / EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am the President of Orange County Farm Bureau. This letter is to address my concern about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. According to the latest EIR report Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly 250k acres of farmland to habitat and "other" uses. There needs to be an EIR done on the result of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must look for ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

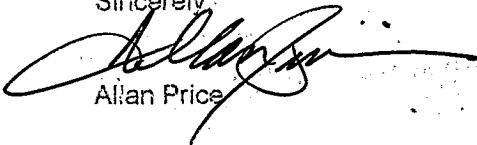
I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we also oppose requirements that dictate what, when and how to grow our crops. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife friendly farms, farmers and ranchers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively and swiftly to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California will not have enough water for the environment in dry years. Water will be taken away from farms, especially during drought situations. Without water farmland will lose its value as an environmental habitat and as a most vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed needs to inform the citizens of this great state on how the plans have changed and how the "new" plans will affect our lives. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plans until the people have had adequate opportunity to review and comment upon it.

What California needs are enhancements to our water resources for the advancement of wildlife, agriculture and the health and well being of our general population. Developing water storage and conserving our precious agricultural land will enable Californians and wildlife to flourish into the next century.

Sincerely,



Allan Price